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'ARAFAT: LEBANON WAS 'MILITARY DEFEAT' FOR ISRAEL

LD250819Y Madrid EL PAIS in Spanish 21 May 78 pp 9-12, 14 (supplement) LD

[Luis Reyes interview in Beirut with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat: "I Would Not Like To Die in Bed"--date not given]

[Excerpt] Question: International public opinion has been unpleasantly surprised by the clashes between the Palestinians and the UN forces, especially after the intentions that you expressed to cooperate with the United Nations. How do you explain what has happened? Does this mean that there is no possiblity of cooperation between the PLO and the UN forces?

Answer: No, the cooperation is continuing; nobody can believe that it has ceased. When the bombing of the French barracks took place, there were several PLO officials of the liaison committee inside it, and the French colonel was wounded when he was traveling in a resistance commander's car, and an aide to that commander--also a Palestinian--attempted to cover the French officer's body with his own and paid for it with his life, but it must be borne in mind that we are not alone in Lebanon...in fact the incidents happened through the fault of the French. The French UN contingent was ordered to fire at any armed man; however, such an order cannot be given here in Lebanon because everybody goes armed. You can imagine that if the Arab peace-keeping forces had done likewise there would not have been a moment ofpeace, because Lebanon, as you know, is a forest of weapons. So the French must not have understood the situation properly and fired at some Lebanese youths who were merely going to visit their families, but, as you can see, everybody here goes around with his Kalashnikov on his back. They killed those two Lebanese youths--two students--and that caused a great ferment in Tyre, because nobody understood that they could fire at people just for walking about armed, and that popular indignation resulted in the reprisals against the French blue helmets. But I want to repeat here that we are prepared to offer the UN forces every facility within our power so that they can perform their task.

Question: Mordekhay Gur, the general commanding the Israeli troops which invaded southern Lebanon 2 months ago, has criticized his government's decision to carry out that operation because it led to the internationalization of the conflict, and this has involved the PLO, as a party concerned, being treated at the international level as one of the states involved and the UN secretary general meeting with you, setting you on an equal footing with Begin, as if you were another head of government.... Are you in agreement with Gur in this assessment?

Answer: Well, I believe that the Israeli invasion of southern Lebanon was a mistake on Begin's part, but not because of what Gur says--not because it involved an international recognition of the PLO or because it enabled its chairman to rub shoulders with Kurt Waldheim. Perhaps you are forgetting that the PLO has been an observer member of the United Nations since 1974, that I have already been received by the UN General Assembly and that I went to New York at the invitation of the United Nations to address the entire world as PLO chairman? No, it was not at the diplomatic level that the Israelis miscalculated the outcome of the invasion but at the military level. Militarily speaking, the Israelis have failed this time. They said that they would crush the resistance within a few hours, that they would annihilate it, that they would erase it from the map...and what happened? The resistance fought them for a week and inflicted far more casualties on them than was anticipated.

And we remain on the map. They came with everything; one-third of the Israeli army came here, with an enormous deployment of armored forces and aircraft; the U.S. F-15's came and saturated us with phosphorus and fragmentation bombs--terrible weapons which, in theory, they had promised Washington they would not use...and they brought the navy, which bombarded the Lebanese cities and our refugee camps with complete impunity, but did they achieve their aims? No. Did they put an end to us? No. They did not even manage to control the territory which they occupied, because we had commandos behind their lines, harassing them. If we assess the scale of the military operation, its duration and their losses and ours, there is no doubt that, militarily speaking, they lost and we won.

Question: However, the general impression throughout the world, such as we gained from the news media, is that Israel brought an apocalypse to southern Lebanon and took complete revenge.

Answer: Yes, it took revenge, but upon the civilians. In this they did indeed achieve a success; they killed 2,000 people--women and children, people who were sleeping in their homes or fleeing toward Beirut. But they did not destroy the military structure of the resistance. However, if military successes are measured by the number of civilians murdered.... I will tell you something: In our opinion, the battle of southern Lebanon was another Karami. In 1968, the Israeli army failed for the first time in history against the fedayeen of Karami. In our opinion, the myth of the invincibility of the Israeli soldier was buried there. Now, in 1978, we have again proved that Israel's army cannot destroy the resistance, but far more clearly and publicly this time, and this new Karami is more important than the earlier one, on a scale in keeping with the 10 years which have elapsed between the two events.

Question: It seems as if you are more satisfied with the situation at the military level than at the political level. The PLO has sharply condemned Anwar as-Sadat's initiative, and Palestinian-Egyptian relations have been severed, but it may be asked how long this tough stance with respect to the Egyptian president will last, because one remembers that Husayn of Jordan was presented for years as the scourge of the resistance and the great enemy of the Palestinian cause, and yet you met with him in 1976 and embraced him in Cairo. How long will it be before you embrace As-Sadat again?

Answer: As far as Husayn is concerned, I must make it clear that there has been no reconciliation. In 1974, the Rabat Arab summit recognized us--the PLO--as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian nation, rejecting the claims which Husayn had to that effect. This decision of the Rabat conference meant that the resistance was entitled to establish itself politically and militarily in Jordan and to maintain its people's organizations among the Palestinian masses there. Since then, we have attempted to induce Husayn to accept this; we have sent delegations to Amman, and even I myself did indeed meet with the king of Jordan at the time of the 1976 Afro-Arab conference in Cairo. But, regrettably, despite our efforts, no improvements in Palestinian-Jordanian relations have occurred, and so it cannot be said that there are good relations between the PLO and King Husayn.

As far as the possibility of a reconciliation with As-Sadat is concerned, this will take place when As-Sadat recognizes the failure of his initiative and states that he is abandoning it. And in this instance, my stance--the PLO's stance--is not an isolated one but is connected with that of the Arab states of the steadfastness front and governed by the decisions which we adopted at the Algiers conference.

Question: Would As-Sadat's visit to Israel perhaps have made a less negative impression on you and been criticized less if he had visited Tel Aviv instead of Jerusalem?

Answer: No, the essence of the matter is the same, although, of course, it caused us greater distress that he visited the Zionist regime in Jerusalem, thus recognizing as the capital of the State of Israel the city which they have most outraged and humiliated--our capital of Palestine. Not even the Americans have gone so far; all the Western states have their embassies in Tel Aviv, and this makes As-Sadat's stance even sorrier. And all that humiliation for nothing; it is now 6 months since As-Sadat's visit, and where are we now? What results has he achieved? Nothing. It can be said that As-Sadat's initiative was finally destroyed by the U.S. tanks of the Israelis who invaded southern Lebanon.

Question: And yet you personally have not been excessively harsh toward the Egyptian president. I wonder what you would do if, like As-Sadat, you received an invitation from the Israeli prime minister to meet with him.

Answer: Well, do not imagine this, because he is not going to invite me. Look, the Knesset--the Israeli parliament--met on 13 March and approved by 115 votes to 6 a motion giving Begin full authority to exterminate the Palestinian resistance, and this means that the genocide in southern Lebanon, the use of terrible weapons banned by the rules of warfare and the killing of civilians, was not something coincidental but the implementation of a program of extermination approved by parliament. How can you expect that parliament and that government to invite me to meet with them?

Question: Israel has always regarded you as a terrorist, and you return the compliment, regarding Israel as a terrorist state. It is possible that many people were surprised by 'Arafat's condemnation of the abduction of Aldo Moro and his appeal to the Red Brigades to release him. Could they also be surprised by an act of terrorism directed by the Israelis against you yourself? Have they ever attempted to assassinate you?

Answer: They have attempted to do so more than once. In Israel there is an office answerable to the prime minister, intended exclusively for planning assassinations of Palestinian personages. Do you not remember the assassinations of the PLO's official representatives in Norway, France and Britain?

Question: And you, Abu 'Ammar, are you afraid of dying in this way, or do you believe that you will die in bed?

Answer: There is a proverb of Caliph Ali which says: "The eye of the coward does not rest in bed, even though he may die in bed like the ass." I would not like to die in bed.

Question: You became an engineer in Cairo and then fought with the Egyptian Army against the Israelis in 1956, then laid down your weapons and went to work as an engineer in Kuwait (from 1957 to 1965), and then returned to the struggle as leader of Fatah and next as chairman of the entire PLO. What is the reason for these successive changes from civilian to military life? Do you have a political vocation?

Answer: No, I have a vocation as an engineer; I like my work a great deal, and if the tragedy of exile and slavery had not struck my people I would not have become involved in politics. I hope to work again as an engineer some day.

Question: Have you ever returned to Palestine since your family went into exile in 1948?

Answer: Of course. The most recent time was when it was completely occupied, when the PLO Central Committee ordered me to direct the military operations from within. That was in 1967-68, and I spent 4 months there, organizing guerrilla warfare; they were crucial months, because it was from then onward that the Palestinian resistance launched its revolution, following the defeats of Egypt, Syria and Jordan in the 6-day war. From then onward--from the battle of Karami, in March 1968, onward--people began to take us into account and to respect the PLO.

Question: The ultimate aims of the PLO were defined at that time as the setting up of a democratic and secular state throughout Palestine, in which Jews, Moslems and Christians could coexist. However, it has seemed for some time as if the PLO leadership has accepted the continued existence of the Jewish confessional state, of Israel. There is now talk of a Palestinian state next to Israel, and you yourself said a short while ago that the solution to the Middle East conflict is for the United States and the Soviet Union jointly to guarantee the existence of a Palestinian state and a State of Israel. Has the Lebanese civil war, in which the Christian and Moslem communities attacked each other so furiously, made you lose hope of a state in which peoples of different religion would coexist?

Answer: The events in Lebanon have had no influence on our views. We have always demanded a democratic and secular state; that is, one in which the citizens' religion would not matter--in Lebanon, it does. This is a total aspiration; it is our dream; a Palestine in which citizens of any religion--Jewish, Moslem or Christian--would coexist. However, in addition to the dream, we have proposed a more practical solution, a short- or medium-term solution, until the dream becomes reality, and that solution is the setting up of a Palestinian state in some part of our homeland which we recover.

Question: On what minimum terms?

Answer: The Palestine National Council, which is the nation's sovereign body, stated at its 12th and 13th meetings that the PLO must struggle to set up an independent Palestinian state on any part of the territory of Palestine which liberates itself or from which the Israelis withdraw. There are no other terms.

'ARAFAT TOURS POSITIONS IN SOUTHERN LEBANON

JN241748Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to Arab World 1600 GMT 24 May 78 JN

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, made an inspection tour yesterday of the joint forces' positions in the eastern sector and the Al-'Urqub area. He held a number of meetings with the commanders of the joint forces of the Palestinian resistance and the Lebanese Nationalist Movement. During these meetings he discussed the latest developments in the situation.

Our radio correspondent has learned that brother Abu 'Ammar reviewed the stands of the concerned parties on the southern Lebanon issue. He also explained to the commanders of the positions the details of the latest meeting he held with UN Assistant Secretary General for Political Affairs Roberto Guyer.

In his statement to the commander of the joint forces, the commander general stressed that the Palestinian revolution's stand toward all parties depends on their honoring the Cairo agreement, which we consider the only basis for organizing the Palestinian-Lebanese relations.

ALF LEADER WARNS UNIFIL, CRITICIZES PLO LEADERSHIP

JN231458Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1304 GMT 23 May 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 23 May--Abd ar-Rahim Ahmad, secretary general of the Arab Liberation Front (ALF), has warned the UN emergency forces against deviating from their task of insuring the withdrawl of the Zionist enemy from southern Lebanon. In an interview published today in the newspaper AL-QA'IDAH, organ of the Palestine Liberation Front, Mr Ahmad said that the Palestinian resistance deals with the UN forces within the framework of this task.

Mr Ahmad stressed the Palestinian revolution's adherence to the Cairo agreement which coordinates relations between the resistance and the Lebanese authorities. This agreement, he said, was reached on Palestinian, Lebanese and Arab levels and cannot be abrogated. Mr Ahmad added that if the UN forces attempt to ignore or abrogate the agreement they will put themselves on the hostile side and will deviate from the task for which they were sent.

Referring to the Palestinian and unionist Tripoli declaration, Mr Ahmad said that the declaration died shortly after it was born. He said that some PLO leaders were not satisfied with renouncing the declaration in order to assume their former positions but went even further to try to rearrange the Palestinian position in order to take part in the settlement. The PLO leaders, he added, have started implementing a series of measures and decisions which are contrary to the basic relations of solidarity among the Palestinians; they are openly calling for recognition of the Zionist entity and for reconciliation with the Jordanian regime and are also planning to establish rapprochement with As-Sadat.

Mr Ahmad said that our criticism of the PLO is a warning to its leadership and a call for the preservation of a minimum of unity in the Palestinian stand and decisions, before it is too late.

VOP ON FEDAYEEN OPERATIONS AGAINST ISRAELIS

JN241727Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to Arab World 1600 GMT 24 May 78 JN

[Text] Palestinian revolutionaries operating inside the occupied homeland managed yesterday to detonate and destroy an enemy police station in the settlement of Or Yehuda, killing or injuring a number of Israeli policemen.

Our revolutionaries also managed yesterday to place incendiary charges inside the yard of an enemy police station in the settlement of Qiryat (?Ono) southeast of Petah Tiqwa. The explosion injured a number of the guards and destroyed a number of Zionist cars. Our revolutionaries returned safely to base. This was stated by the military spokesman of the general command of the Palestinian revolution forces in two communiques issued today.

On the first operation, the spokesman said that one of our revolutionaries in the groups operating inside the occupied homeland place timed explosives inside the enemy police station in Or Yehuda settlement north of Tel Aviv, on the Tel Aviv-Haifa road. The charges went off at the set time of 1915 on 23 May 1978. The explosion caused the following: 1. injured an unknown number of enemy policemen; 2. destroyed a big part of the building, as the enemy admitted; and 3. damaged a number of the police cars parked in front of the building.

The area was surrounded by a large number of army and police forces which evacuated the area and cut off communication lines between Haifa and Tel Aviv for over 2 hours. During this time these forces searched and combed the area and arrested scores of Palestinian citizens for investigation.

On the second operation, the spokesman said that a group of our revolutionaries placed incendiary charges inside the yard of the enemy police station in the settlement of Qiryat (?Ono) southeast of Petah Tiqwa on 23 May. At 2125 hours the charges went off and the explosion was heard all over the settlement. The explosion injured a number of the police station guards and destroyed a number of the police cars in the yard. When they combed the area, the occupation forces discovered another explosive charge near a store. Experts defused it.

ICATU SAYS ZAIRE EVENTS INTERNAL PROBLEM

JN241337Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 24 May 78 JN

[Text] Damascus--The International Confederation of Arab Trade Unions has issued a statement affirming that the imperialist countries want to control the African Continent again and to exploit it. These countries realize the strategic, economic and political importance of Africa. The statement said that the events taking place in Shaba Province are an internal issue. The Zairian people can solve their problem with the Mobutu regime.

FATAH OFFICIAL MEETS SPANISH WORKERS PARTY DELEGATION

JN241823Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to Arab World 1600 GMT 24 May 78 JN

[Text] Abu Hatim, official in charge of foreign relations in the Fatah movement, this morning received a delegation of the Spanish Workers Party headed by Comrade (Hilario Carcica Castro), secretary general of the party; Comrade (Natario Awad), secretary of foreign relations and Political Bureau member; and Comrade (Juan Carlilon Asiro), member of the party's Central Committee.

During the meeting they exchanged views on the current situation regarding the Palestinian issue and Spain. They also reviewed Palestinian-Spanish relations at the party and popular levels.

AFRO-ARAB COOPERATION COMMITTEE TO MEET 5 JUNE

NC210740Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 21 May 78 NC

[Text] The Arab League Secretariat General has sent a memorandum to the Arab foreign ministers, members of the Committee of Twelve for Arab-African cooperation, inviting them to attend the meeting of the permanent committee for cooperation between the Arab and African states. The meeting is scheduled to take place on 5 June in Niger.

Arab League Assistant Secretary General Dr Sayyid Nawfal has stated that the OAU has informed the Arab League that the African delegations will be at the foreign minister level. The Arab League Secretariat General has received a memorandum from the Foreign Ministry indicating that Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali will head the Egyptian delegation to the committee's meetings. The committee is scheduled to discuss what has been implemented of the program for cooperation between the two sides which was approved by the first Afro-Arab summit conference in Cairo. The committee will also discuss the date and venue of the conference of the African and Arab foreign ministers.

KUWAIT

STORAGE TANKS DESTROYED BY FIRE AT FUEL DEPOT

LD240915Y Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 23 May 78 LD

[Text] Haydar Ahmad, director general of the information department of the Kuwait Oil Company, told the KUWAITI NEWS AGENCY today that last night a fire broke out in a crude oil storage tank at the tank farm in Al-Manaish. He said that the fire subsequently spread to a storage tank close to the first one, then to a testing tank. Firemen brought the fire under control, but not before it had destroyed the three tanks with a capacity of 50,000 barrels and damaged an oil pipeline and another for gas burning. However, no one was injured. Haydar Ahmad said that the incident was caused by a purely technical fault and that the authorities concerned are still investigating these causes.

SAUDI ARABIA

EGYPTIAN FOREIGN MINISTER ARRIVES, MAKES STATEMENT

LD241200Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 0920 GMT 24 May 78 LD

[Text] Jidda--Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil, Egypt's foreign minister, arrived in Jidda late this morning on a visit to Saudi Arabia, during which he is to have talks with Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, who was at the airport to welcome the Egyptian minister.

The Egyptian foreign minister, in a statement on arrival, expressed his pleasure at visiting the kingdom and meeting with officials for consultations that will benefit the two fraternal countries and the Arab and Islamic nations. He said that King Khalid and President Anwar as-Sadat have already set a tradition of continuous consultations and coordination for joint action to regain the Arab rights and to provide security, safety and prosperity for the Arab peoples. Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil went on to say that his visit to the Kingdom takes place within these traditions and within the framework of strengthening Arab solidarity, especially in the difficult conditions through which the Arab nation is going and which demand consultations and coordination. Kamil said that he is looking forward to meeting Price Fahd.

Prince Sa'ud said that he believes the uproar caused by the aircraft deal is over. He said the assessment made in the United States about this matter and the decision taken in the light of this assessment led to further confidence that the United States will assess its policy in the Middle East on a basis of justice and common interests which link the United States with the Arab world.

Regarding coordination between the Kingdom and Egypt at the extraordinary UNGA session that opened yesterday, Prince Sa'ud said that the Arab countries have a continuing responsibility to adopt a unified stand during this session. He said that coordination exists, praise God, it has not ceased, and that the current consultations among the Arab countries will contribute to raising the level of coordination among them and will provide the opportunity for continued rectification of Arab conditions.

Regarding the convening of the Arab summit conference and the Kingdom's efforts in this regard, Prince Sa'ud stressed that the Kingdom sees it as its duty to back everything that will bring good and well-being to the Arab nation. The Kingdom also has hopes for the efforts being exerted by Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri, chairman of the Arab Solidarity Committee, in this sphere. The Saudi foreign minister said he hopes these efforts will succeed and that the Arab summit conference will be held at the earliest opportunity.

Talks Begin

LD241743Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1555 GMT 24 May 78 LD

[Text] Jidda--Official talks between His Royal Highness Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal and Egyptian Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil began at 1600 today at the guest house in Jidda. Attending on the Saudi side were: Foreign Under Secretary for Political Affairs Shaykh Abd ar-Rahman Mansuri and Chief of Protocol at the Foreign Minister Shaykh Salim Sunbul. On the Egyptian side: Ahmad Thabit, Egyptian ambassador to the Kingdom, and Ahmad Mahir, ambassador at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry.

SNA has learned that the talks dealt with the development of the Middle East situation, the impact of Arab efforts on world public opinion in general and U.S. public opinion in particular, ways of restoring Arab solidarity, the efforts being exerted to convene the Arab summit conference and the contacts being conducted by Sudanese President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri. The talks also dealt with the consolidation of relations between the two sister countries and methods of promoting and strengthening these relations in the interests of and for the aspirations of both peoples.

Prince Fahd Receives Kamil

LD242331Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1700 GMT 24 May 78 LD

[Text] Jidda--At 1930 today Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, regent and heir apparent, received Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil, Egyptian foreign minister, who is on a visit to the Kingdom. The meeting was attended by Prince 'Abdullah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister and commander of the national guard; Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign minister, and Ahmad Thabit, Egyptian ambassador to the Kingdom.

UAE

ALGERIAN ENVOY ARRIVES WITH MESSAGE FOR SHAYKH ZAYID

JN240801Y Abu Dhabi EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0600 GMT 24 May 78 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 24 May--'Abd al-Hamid Mahri, personal envoy of Algerian President Houari Boumediene, arrived in Abu Dhabi this morning on an official visit to the UAE.

Mahri told the EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY on his arrival that he is bringing a message from Algerian President Houari Boumediene to His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan dealing with the current Arab situation and Arab issues. The letter comes within the framework of the exchange of views between the two fraternal countries on these issues in an attempt to solve the problems of the Arab nation for the sake of the nation's well-being and general benefit.

The Algerian envoy said that his tour includes several Arab countries. In the first phase of this tour, he visited Kuwait, Syria, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, the PDRY and the YAR, and also met with the PLO Executive Committee chairman. He said that the second phase covers the UAE, Qatar, Bahrain, the Sultanate of Oman, Jordan and Lebanon.

Mahri was met at the airport by 'Abd ar-Rahman al-Jarwan, Foreign Ministry under secretary, a number of foreign ministry officials, and Muhammad 'Isa Mas'udi, Algerian charge d'affaires in the UAE.

Received by Shaykh

JN241820Y Abu Dhabi EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1635 GMT 24 May 78 JN

[Text] Sayr Bani Yas Island, 24 May--His Highness Shaykh Zayid Ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of th epublic, received at Sayr Yas Island this afternoon 'Abd al-Hamid Mahri, personal envoy of Algerian President Houari Boumediene.

In a statement to the EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY after the meeting, the Algerian envoy stated that he delivered a letter dealing with the current Arab situation to His Highness Shaykh Zayid from his brother His Excellency Algerian President Houari Boumediene. The letter comes within the framework of consultations and the exchange of views between the two countries.

Mahri arrived in Abu Dhabi this morning from Kuwait as part of a tour he is making of countries in the region.

YEMEN--PDRY

UPONF SECRETARY MEETS CUBAN SECURITY MISSION

LD242003Y Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 24 May 78 LD/EA

[Summary] (Jain) Salih, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the United Political Organization-National Front [UPONF] branch in the Third Governorate, yesterday morning received a Cuban consultative mission for the people's Defense Committees. During the meeting, discussions were held on developing the work of the organization of People's Defense Committees in the Third Governorate for the service of the citizens.

ALGERIA TO FINANCE EARTH SATELLITE STATION IN PDRY

LD242305Y Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 24 May 78 LD/EA

[Summary] Mahmud 'Abdallah 'Ushaysh, minister of communication, returned to Aden today from visits to Algeria and Libya. The minister said he had held talks with Algerian officials that resulted in agreement by Algeria to finance the construction of an earth satellite station in the PDRY.

In Libya the minister delivered a message to Colonel al-Qadhdhafi from 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il, secretary general of the United Political Organization-National Front Central Committee. Minister 'Ushaysh has disclosed that a Libyan delegation will visit the PDRY at the beginning of June to discuss matters of bilateral interest.

YEMEN--YAR

PRIME MINISTER ACCEPTS INVITATION TO VISIT LIBYA

JN211321Y San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 21 May 78 JN

[Text] Prime Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani today received the Libyan ambassador, who conveyed to him an invitation to visit Libya from his brother Maj 'Abd as-Salam Jallud, member of the General Secretariat of the General People's Congress. The prime minister accepted the invitation, and the date of the visit will be fixed some time later.

MINISTER OF STATE GHALI ON SITUATION IN AFRICA

NC241730Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1520 GMT 24 May 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 24 May--Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Butrus Ghali has emphasized that Egypt's policy on Africa is one of commitment to the principles of the OAU, the principles of nonalinement, the combat of imperialism and neocolonialism in Africa, and economic and cultural cooperation with the African Continent.

Dr Ghali was speaking at today's meeting of the People's Assembly's Foreign Relations Committee under the chairmanship of Dr Jamal al-'Utayfi. The meeting was also attended by Dr 'Ayidah Taqla, head of the African Studies Department at the University of California in America.

Dr Ghali affirmed that despite its preoccupation with the Middle East problem, Egyptian diplomacy is contributing to the struggle against imperialism in the African Continent.

He pointed out that we must differentiate between temporary foreign intervention and permanent foreign intervention in the continent. He added: Temporary intervention, such as the one in Shaba a few days ago, has humanitarian objectives, but permanent intervention means military, ideological intervention aimed at introducing a new ideology to the African Continent.

Egypt, he said, adheres to the principle of respecting the existing borders of the African states, as well as the preservation and nonviolation of these borders even if such borders are not in harmony with the economic conditions. The Egyptian Government, he said, supports the territorial integrity of the African states.

Dr Butrus Ghali emphasized that Egypt upholds and insists upon equality among the African states and upon the settlement of African disputes by peaceful means within an African framework.

On the situation in the Horn of Africa, Dr Butrus Ghali explained that Egyptian diplomacy has played a part in persuading Somalia to withdraw from the Ogaden region, and even tried to play a conciliatory role between Somalia and Ethiopia, but this has not produced positive results so far because of the demands of both states.

The minister of state said that there is a conflict between the demands of Somalia and the demands of Ethiopia. Ethiopia, he said, is demanding that Somalia issue a declaration affirming that it has no designs on the neighboring states and is asking compensation for the damage done to the Ogaden region. Dr Ghali said that the Somali side, on the other hand, is demanding the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Ethiopia and self-determination for all the peoples in the Ogaden region as a basis for a peaceful settlement of the dispute. This dispute, he added, will be discussed by the African Foreign Ministers Conference scheduled to be held in Khartoum in July.

On the U.S. position on this dispute, Dr Butrus Ghali said that the United States refuses to give any aid to Somalia as long as Somalia refuses to issue a statement that it has no designs on the neighboring countries. Egypt, he said, will continue to try to promote a peaceful settlement to this conflict because it is in Somalia's interests to settle it by peaceful means.

He explained that Egypt has helped Somalia militarily in order to establish a balance between the parties to the conflict and thus facilitate a peaceful settlement to the problem.

Asked how one can reconcile the differences within the Egyptian policy, which is based on opposition to border conflicts among the African states and [Egypt's support of] the principle of self-determination for the people of Eritrea, Dr Ghali said that Eritrea was under Italian colonialism and was not part of Ethiopia. In 1950 the United Nations passed Resolution 390 granting autonomy to Eritrea and linking it in a federal union with Ethiopia. The Eritrean government was to have executive, legislative and judicial branches dealing with the country's internal affairs, while Ethiopia would be responsible for foreign and defense affairs.

The minister of state for foreign affairs pointed out that in 1960 the emperor of Ethiopia announced the annexation of Eritrea to Ethiopia and canceled the country's right for autonomous rule. The minister said that the compromise solution to this conflict would be the return to the UN resolution. He said: It is in our interest to resolve this conflict by peaceful means because the Soviet Union and Cuba are behind it.

In reply to another question, Dr Ghali affirmed that Egypt refuses to undertake the role of defending U.S. or Soviet interests in Africa. He stressed that it is in the interest of Egypt for peace to prevail in the African Continent so Egypt can play a role in Afro-Arab cooperation and gain the support of the African states for its position on the Middle East problem.

Dr Jamal al-'Utayfi, the deputy speaker of the People's Assembly and the chairman of the committee, said at the beginning of the meeting that today's meeting had special significance because it was being held on the occasion of Africa Day. The committee considered that the best way to celebrate this day is to follow up the important political developments which are taking place in Africa and to evaluate the role played by the OAU since its establishment.

NEW AL-WAFD PARTY CRITICIZES MAMDUH SALIM

LD231924Y Cairo AL-AHRAR in Arabic 22 May 78 p 1 LD

[Excerpt] The New Al-Wafd Party issued a statement which was read by Fu'ad Saraj ad-Din [party leader] at a press conference he held at his residence on Saturday. The press conference was attended by 45 Egyptian and foreign journalists and was reported by news agencies and the American ABC television network.

Saraj ad-Din told journalists that the party fully trusts and believes in President Anwar as-Sadat and that it does not trust Mamduh Salim. He said that the incident of the Al-Jamarik constituency elections prompts him to say that the present government cannot be trusted with any kind of elections.

The New Al-Wafd Party statement expressed regret at the reemergence of the idea of political isolation which the country experienced in its darkest days during the years of the rule of the previous president when the law was abolished, justice was trampled upon and freedoms were suppressed.

The statement said that allowing the New Al-Wafd Party to emerge had indeed been considered a landmark on the path of democratization and liberalization. Therefore, any attempt to undermine the party after its establishment or attempts to terrorize it and render it ineffective by getting rid of its leadership would be a serious sign indicating the return once again to a period of autocratic rule and to the one-party system. The statement said that the referendum is a double-edged weapon that outwardly could be a facade for democratic application, while inwardly being a means of bolstering autocratic rule under a democratic guise.

The party said in its statement that such measures would be prejudicial to the formation of parties and their right to choose their leadership. The statement warned against the danger of giving the socialist attorney general investigative and prosecution powers, since such powers are still subject to constitutional controversy.

Saraj ad-Din said that the New Al-Wafd Party did not ask its members to abstain from voting in the referendum because the law would have punished those boycotting the referendum.

Referring to his recent speech in Alexandria, he said that since 1952 he had made only two speeches: one in Alexandria and the other previously at a meeting of the bar association. He said nothing in the two speeches that is harmful to anybody. This can be verified from the recording of the speech which, he added, will be placed at the disposal of the political leadership.

COURT APPROVES DECISION TO CONFISCATE AL-AHALI

NC241453Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1410 GMT 24 May 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 24 May--In its session this morning, under counselor Anwar Abu Sahali, the South Cairo Court of First Instance confirmed the decision of the supreme state security prosecutor to confiscate the 17th edition of the newspaper AL-AHALI, organ of the National Progressive Unionist Party, which was scheduled to appear today.

CABINET DISCUSSES REFERENDUM, U.S. AIRCRAFT DEAL

NC241638Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 24 May 78 NC

[Excerpts] At its meeting today under Prime Minister Mamduh Salim, the cabinet discussed the results of the public referendum on the six principles to safeguard democracy and the domestic front.

The cabinet discussed a number of topics, including coordination between the government and the Arab Socialist Party of Egypt and between the government and the parliamentary faction of the Arab Socialist Party of Egypt in order to implement the wishes of the people.

The cabinet also discussed the cooperation between the government and the People's Assembly and the establishment of broader ties between the press and the members of the cabinet to facilitate the work of the cabinet and at the same time to inform the people of what is accomplished with regard to their problems in light of available resources.

The cabinet also discussed today the effects of the U.S. arms deal with Egypt and Saudi Arabia. The cabinet concluded that the deal breaks the monopoly of Israel's special relationship with the United States.

The cabinet also concluded that this deal will give greater impetus to the peacemaking efforts and that the Egyptian initiative is having profound effects and registering successes day after day.

AL-AKHBAR ATTACKS MOSCOW CRITICISM OF DEMOCRACY

LD241358Y Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 21 May 78 p 1 LD

[Musa Sabri article: "Egyptian Democracy Does Not Please Moscow"]

[Text] Moscow, which 2 days ago sentenced a leading nuclear physicist to 7 years imprisonment and 5 years banishment simply because he criticized the Soviet Government--a sentence that the whole world denounced--said in an Arabic language broadcast yesterday--a language that the Soviet people do not understand--that democracy in Egypt is in danger. Moscow, whose judges refused to hear defense witnesses called by the nuclear physicist, in one session sentenced the scientist to 12 years imprisonment and banishment, expelled his two sons from the courtroom, and banned any journalist from attending the trial--this Moscow does not like Egyptian democracy and protests against the referendum taking place today.

Yes, Moscow does not like Egyptian democracy because it is a democracy that will not bring back prisons, detention camps and torture; does not impose sequestration on the people; and does not threaten the security and livelihood of the people. Yes, Moscow does not like Egyptian democracy because it is a democracy that wants to protect itself from the tongues of Moscow and from those who sing its praise and pray in its temple. Yes, Moscow does not like Egyptian democracy because Egyptian justice does not sentence a leading scientist to 12 years imprisonment and banishment simply because he criticizes and calls for respecting human rights. Egyptian man, Moscow, will not go backward because he lives in a democracy that respects the judiciary and its independence; a democracy that has closed detention camps for good; a democracy that does not suppress the voice of the opposition; a democracy that is loyal only to Egypt and its people.

PRESIDENT AS-SADAT RECEIVES FOREIGN ENVOYS, OFFICIALS

Receives Zairian Envoy

NC241628Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1554 GMT 24 May 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 24 May--President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat has received Ambassador (Linga Dulia), envoy of Zaire President Mobutu Sese Seko. The Zairian envoy arrived in Cairo yesterday.

Receives Jordanian Envoy

NC241629Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1555 GMT 24 May 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 24 May--President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat has received 'Akif al-Fayiz, envoy of King Husayn of Jordan and former speaker of the Jordanian Parliament. Al-Fayiz arrived in Cairo on 20 May.

Turk al-Faysal, Kamil

NC231859Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1827 GMT 23 May 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 23 May--President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat today received Amir Turk al-Faysal. The meeting was attended by Vice President Husni Mubarak. Moreover, President as-Sadat has also received Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil. The meeting was attended by Vice President Husni Mubarak.

AS-SIYASAH: IRAQ MAY SEVER USSR RELATIONS OVER ERITREA

JN250940Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0845 GMT 25 May 78 JN

[Text] Kuwait, 25 May--The Kuwaiti paper AS-SIYASAH today quoted its correspondent in Baghdad as saying that Iraq has informed the USSR of its firm opposition to any military pressure against the Eritreans. The paper said that this Iraqi stand was made clear when Saddam Husayn, vice chairman of the Iraqi Revolution Command Council, met with the USSR ambassador last week and explained to him that Iraq is completely opposed to the use of force against the Eritrean revolution. He said that Iraq is prepared to sever its diplomatic relations with Moscow if it is proved that the Soviets have supplied military support to Ethiopia in its war against Eritrea.

BAGHDAD RADIO: THREE EGYPTIAN OFFICERS ARRESTED IN SINAI

JN241743Y Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1600 GMT 24 May 78 JN

[Text] Cairo--The authorities of the ruling regime in Egypt have arrested three Egyptian officers in occupied Sinai. Reports say that As-Sadat's authorities arrested the three officers on charges of firing at a Zionist military post in the Gulf of Suez and at an oilfield in Sinai. It will be recalled that the Zionist enemy has been exploiting the oil in Sinai ever since his occupation of Sinai in the 1967 aggression.

AS-SIYASAH: ARRESTS BEING MADE AMONG IRAQI COMMUNISTS

NC241150Y Doha QNA in Arabic 0945 GMT 24 May 78 NC

[Text] Kuwait, 24 May--The Kuwaiti newspaper AS-SIYASAH today quotes Gulf political sources as saying that a large-scale campaign of arrests among the ranks of the Iraqi Communist Party and its cadres has been carried out in many Iraqi towns over the past few days and that this campaign is still going on.

In a report from Dubayy, the paper says that the campaign of arrests in Iraq centers on the cadres, not on the party leaders, following a long critical article carried recently by the Iraqi newspaper AR-RASID. In this article, the paper attacked the Iraqi Communist Party for a number of domestic and regional policies adopted by the party.

Quoting some Iraqi communists, these sources add that the article carried by the newspaper AR-RASID reflects the viewpoints of the Ba'th Party Regional Command and provides an advance explanation of this large-scale arrest campaign.

IRAQ WILL SUPPORT ARAB UNIVERSITY IN WEST BANK

JN241144Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0725 GMT 24 May 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 24 May--Iraq has decided to give academic support to Bi'r Zayt University in the occupied West Bank. This support includes three professors from Baghdad University and one professor each from the Universities of Mosul, Basra, As-Sulaymaniyah, Al-Mustansiriyah and of technology. It also includes 5,000 dinars annually for each professor.

Bi'r Zayt University has 1,000 Arab students and is a member of the Arab Universities Federation and of the International Federation of Universities.

MINISTER RETURNS FROM NONALINED MEETING, MAKES STATEMENT

JN242111Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 2040 GMT 24 May 78 JN

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 24 May--Iraqi Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hamid 'Alwan returned to Baghdad this evening after heading the Iraqi delegation to the conference of the coordination bureau of the foreign ministers of the nonalined states held in Havana recently.

In a statement to INA, 'Alwan said that the Iraqi delegation submitted three draft resolutions to the conference, including the denunciation of the Zionist arsenal and the U.S. role in it.

'Alwan added that Iraq submitted to the special session of the UN General Assembly a draft resolution on disarmament and called for putting an end to nuclear armament, its sources and technology.

The second Iraqi draft resolution denounced the U.S. threats to use force and the formation of the emergency force against the oil-producing countries, particularly the Arab Gulf states.

The third draft resolution concentrated on the deteriorating international economic situation and the big gap between the economies of the developing countries and the advanced industrial states, as well as the obstinacy of the industrial countries, which has led to failure in achieving progress to establish a new international economic order.

TRADE MINISTER LEAVES ON SCANDINAVIAN TOUR

JN241142Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0830 GMT 24 May 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 24 May--Hasan 'Ali, member of the Revolution Command Council and trade minister, left for Stockholm this morning at the head of a delegation which will tour the Scandinavian countries, including Sweden, Finland and Denmark.

Commenting on the trip, the minister said that the members of the delegation will hold talks on developing economic and technical cooperation and on finding better formulas for trade between Iraq and those countries.

The minister said that the delegation will also study the experiences of those countries in carrying out development projects and programs in Iraq.

The delegation includes representatives of the Ministries of Trade, Industry and Minerals, Oil, Agriculture and Agrarian Reform, and Health.

RCC VICE CHAIRMAN RECEIVES MOROCCAN PARTY LEADER

JN241347Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1238 GMT 24 May 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 24 May--Saddam Husayn, vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council, today received 'Abdullah Ibrahim, secretary general of the Moroccan National Union of Popular Forces. During the meeting, which was attended by Badr ad-Din Mudaththar, member of the Ba'th Party National Command, a review was held of the current Arab situation and the role of Arab revolutionaries in confronting the imperialist, Zionist and reactionary conspiracies which aim at harming the Arab revolutionary movement and the central issue of Palestine.

INFORMATION MINISTER, FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL MEET

JN241502Y Amman JNA in Arabic 1415 GMT 24 May 78 JN

[Text] Amman, 24 May--Information Minister 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah and Henri Servant, assistant director of Middle East affairs in the French Foreign Ministry, have reviewed the current situation in the area in the context of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Abu 'Awdah outlined the Jordanian Government's stand on the various problems emanating from this conflict. He reviewed the government's analysis of the Israeli position, Israel's reaction to President as-Sadat's peace initiative, the so-called Begin plan, the Israeli occupation authorities' continuing to establish settlements on occupied Arab land and the negative repercussions all this has on the progress of international efforts to reach a peaceful settlement to the Middle East crisis.

Servant arrived in Amman yesterday as part of a tour of several Arab capitals to exchange viewpoints on the Middle East problem.

JORDANIAN-AFGHAN RELATIONS TO REMAIN UNCHANGED

JN241457Y Amman JNA in Arabic 1420 GMT 24 May 78 JN

[Text] Amman, 24 May--The Jordanian Government has informed the new regime in Afghanistan that the good relations existing between the two countries will continue, and diplomatic relations will remain unchanged under the new regime.

ECONOMIC DELEGATION RETURNS FROM LIBYAN VISIT

JN241856Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 24 May 78 JN

[Text] Minister of Finance Muhammad ad-Dabbas and the delegation accompanying him returned to Amman this evening at the end of a weeklong visit to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah. During the visit, Ad-Dabbas held talks with Libyan officials dealing with economic and technical cooperation between the two countries.

Minister ad-Dabbas stated that an agreement on economic and technical cooperation was signed between Jordan and Libya. The agreement includes a Libyan agreement in principle to provide 5 percent of the capital for the potash company; the Libyan Arab Bank's cooperation in advancing loans of approximately $50 million to the potash project; Libyan provision of 5 percent of the capital for the chemical fertilizers project; and a loan of $20 million.

It was also agreed to send a technical delegation from the chemical fertilizers company to discuss details pertaining to this project.

AR-RA'Y SAYS ISRAEL PLANS TO ANNEX WEST BANK

JN241119Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 24 May 78 JN

[From the press review]

[Text] In its editorial today, the newspaper AR-RA'Y discusses the Israeli prevarications in reaching a peaceful solution in the Middle East. The paper says: The Israeli newspaper YEDI'OT AHARONOT quotes Israeli Foreign Ministry circles as saying that the Begin government may begin discussions this week on the future of the West Bank after 5 years of the self-rule which Begin proposed to President as-Sadat.

The paper says: Washington is apparently keeping silent following the endorsement of the aircraft deal and the reassurances from the White House that the United States intends to move again to push the peace negotiations forward. At the current stage, Washington seems to prefer to wait until it receives final answers to the questions it addressed to Cairo and Tel Aviv.

AR-RA'Y asks: Why does Israel insist on a transitional period of 5 years during which the West Bank and the Gaza Strip will remain at the mercy of occupation according to the self-rule formula? Why does Israel insist on continuing to confiscate land and building new settlements, thus doubling Jewish settlers and continuing the same policy during the 5 years which start after Begin's peace plan is accepted?

The paper says: Does not Begin's new peace proposal mean giving Israel another 5-year period to change the occupied Arab land geographically and socially in such a way as to annex and Judaize it, after which it will not be difficult to predict the results of a referendum on self-determination?

HUSAYN ATTENDS ARMY EXERCISES, ADDRESSES TROOPS

JN232058Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 23 May 78 JN

[Excerpts] His majesty the supreme commander of the armed forces spent most of the day today watching exercises, carried out with live ammunition, by the 3d Royal Armored Division in accordance with previously drawn-up plans and schedules. The exercises began 5 days ago with all the support and service units taking part.

At the end of the exercise his majesty met with the officers and men who took part in them. Addressing the troops, his majesty said: You stand on the confrontation line, and you must always be ready to carry out your duty in defending the rights, the territories and our nation in the Arab homeland in order that right might be restored to its owners and the territories and Arab Jerusalem to Arab sovereignty. Our endeavors must always be to achieve better results.

His majesty expressed his confidence in this division and the Jordanian Arab Army--the army of the great Arab revolt and the carriers of its banner.

Concluding his speech, his majesty congratulated the officers and men of the division and the armed forces on their excellent training. Those present on the occasion expressed their admiration for the combat standard achieved by the forces taking part in the exercise.

KING HUSAYN ANNOUNCES 15 JUNE WEDDING DATE

JN240842Y Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 24 May 78 p 1 JN

[Text] Amman, May 23 (JNA)--His Majesty King Husayn announced today that his wedding to Miss Nur Halaby will take place on June 15.

The king's announcement was made during a press conference at the gardens of the royal palace this evening.

King Husayn said he and Miss Halaby will be married "as Moslems, Hashemites and Arabs."

SARKIS BRIEFS CABINET ON HIS TALKS WITH UN'S GUYER

NC2414462 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 24 May 78 NC

[Excerpt] President Sarkis chaired the weekly cabinet meeting which began at 1040 today. Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss and the ministers attended the meeting.

Before the cabinet session, President Sarkis met with Prime Minister al-Huss and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Defense Fu'ad Butrus. The session continued until 1230.

After the cabinet meeting, the cabinet secretary general, 'Umar Musaykah, released the following official statement:

The president opened the cabinet session with a briefing on the talks he held last week with Roberto Guyer, the representative of the UN secretary general. His excellency explained that the future stand which the government might take on the Cairo agreement and its final fate is one matter, and the implementation by the UN peace-keeping forces of Resolutions 425 and 426 in the south is another matter. The president said that while the government reserves its rights and interests concerning the above-mentioned agreement, the actual implementation of Resolutions 425 and 426 should not be impeded by obstructions or by justifications from any side.

His excellency said that the goal of the UN peace-keeping forces is to help the Lebanese Government restore its control over the south. This task requires securing total Israeli withdrawal and preventing any armed element that does not conform with the orders of the Lebanese Government from infiltrating or carrying out any activities in the area under the command of the UN forces. It is obvious that the UN forces should hand over to the Lebanese Government and no one else the positions under their control.

PRIME MINISTER AL-HUSS MEETS WITH PLO DELEGATION

NC2418242 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 24 May 78 NC

[Text] Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss held a meeting at his home this evening with a PLO command delegation. It was attended by Interior Minister Dr Salah Salman and the commander of the Arab deterrent forces, Lt Col Sami al-Khatib.

The Palestinian delegation included PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, PLO UN Permanent Representative Basil 'Aql, Salah Khalaf, Zuyahr Muhsin, Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh, Talal Naji and Abu al-Qalid.

The discussion centered on the situation in the south, particularly on facilitating the complete implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions 425 and 426.

PLO ANNOUNCES STEPS WHICH WILL BE TAKEN IN LEBANON

NC2420362 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 24 May 78 NC

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss held a meeting at his home today at 1930 with a PLO command delegation which lasted until 2200. Prime Minister al-Huss said after the meeting that a tripartite military committee will be in charge of the implementation [of what was agreed].

He said the committee will consist of representatives of the Lebanese side, the Palestinian side and the Arab deterrent forces. He added that the discussions will be continued in other meetings, which will be held successively.

Talal Naji then read the following statement:

1. The PLO assured the prime minister that it is interested in facilitating the mission of the UN forces to bring about the complete Israeli withdrawal from the south and the restoration of Lebanese sovereignty there.

2. The PLO condemned all the negative practices and excesses in the south. It expressed full readiness to exert every effort to prevent such excesses at the earliest possible time in order to preserve Palestinian-Lebanese relations.

3. The PLO emphasized that in intends to put an end to armed manifestations in the South in order to help the legitimate authorities carry out their duties and exercise their sovereignty.

4. At the request of the prime minister, the PLO will seek to insure the departure of the volunteers who came during the Israeli invasion of the south.

5. It was agreed to hold further meetings to regulate Lebanese-Palestinian relations in such a way as to safeguard Lebanese sovereignty and serve the Palestinian cause.

FORMER LEBANESE PRESIDENT LEAVES HOSPITAL

NC231025Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 23 May 78 NC

[Text] Former president Sulayman Franjiyah left the Hotel Dieu Hospital at noon today and will convalesce at his home in An-Naqqash after recovering from his illness.

AL-QABAS: UNIFIL FRENCH UNIT ALERTED TO FEDAYEEN ATTACK

JN250856Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0830 GMT 25 May 78 JN

[Text] Kuwait, 25 May--Citing reliable sources in Beirut, the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-QABAS today says that the French unit in the UN Interim Force In Lebanon has received secret orders from the French Army Command in Paris to stay vigilant and in a state of maximum alert. These sources said that the orders were given following reports that a group of Palestinian fedayeen might launch a large-scale surprise attack on the French unit in southern Lebanon in reprisal for the dispatch of French paratroops to Zaire. These sources, which are closely linked to the French Embassy in Beirut, also said that the French Embassy staff are talking about French military preparations in the Mediterranean as a precaution against any sudden attack on the French unit in southern Lebanon.

INCIDENTS REPORTED IN SOUTHERN LEBANON 24 MAY

JN241818Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1740 GMT 24 May 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 24 May--Reports from southern Lebanon say that the Zionist forces opened automatic fire before noon today in the vicinity of Tallat al-Khuraybah. Fires broke out in the thick forests in the area which spread all along the east bank of the Hasbani River, threatening the orchards and crops in the region.

The reports also say that the UN Nepalese forces have been seen defusing mines planted by the Zionist forces in the hills of Balat township. The reports add that heavy automatic fire was heard sporadically in the occupied township of Al-Khiyam.

SYRIA, GDR SIGN INDUSTRIAL PROTOCOL IN DAMASCUS

JN231426Y Damascus SANA in Arabic 1350 GMT 23 May 78 JN

[Excerpt] Damascus, 23 May--A protocol on industrial and technical cooperation between Syria and the GDR was signed in the hall of the general establishment for cement in Damascus this afternoon. The protocol was signed on the Syrian side by Industry Minister Shutaywi Sayfu, and on the GDR side by Minister of Heavy Machine Construction Gerhard Zimmermann. Members of the Syrian and GDR negotiating delegations were present when the protocol was signed.

FOREIGN MINISTER WILL VISIT FRG 6-9 JUNE

JN230559Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 23 May 78 JN

[Text] In response to an invitation from Hans-Dietrich Genscher, FRG vice chancellor and foreign minister, 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, will pay an official visit to the FRG 6-9 June.

President Walter Scheel and Chancellor Helmut Schmidt will receive Khaddam during his visit. He will also meet with a number of Federal ministers, heads of political parties and representatives of economic circles.

ECONOMY MINISTER RECEIVES CUBAN TRADE MINISTER

JN231002Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0915 GMT 23 May 78 JN

[Text] Dr Muhammad al-'Imadi, minister of economy and foreign trade, this morning received Cuban Foreign Trade Minister Marcelo Fernandez Font. During the meeting economic and trade relations between the two countries were reviewed.

The Cuban minister arrived in Damascus last night at the head of a delegation on a week-long visit to Syria for talks on developing trade between the two countries.

KHADDAM RECEIVES FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL

JN221655Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 22 May 78 JN

[Text] 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, received in his office today Henri Servant, chief of the Middle East department in the French Foreign Ministry. The meeting was attended by the director of the West European Department in the Foreign Ministry and the French Ambassador in Damascus. The discussion dealt with the situation in the Middle East, the situation in southern Lebanon and the mission of the UN forces in southern Lebanon. Servant is scheduled to leave Damascus for Amman tomorrow.

AL-ASAD CABLES HUSAYN ON JORDAN INDEPENDENCE DAY

JN241324Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1125 GMT 24 May 78 JN

[Text] Damascus--President Hafiz al-Asad has sent a cable of congratulations to His Majesty King Husayn on Jordan's celebration of the 32d anniversary of its independence. He expressed on behalf of the Syrian people and in his own name sincere congratulations and greetings. He wished his majesty good health and happiness and for the fraternal people of Jordan, progress and prosperity.

ALGERIA

PRESIDENT BOUMEDIENE ADDRESSES MUJAHIDIN CONFERENCE

LD242204 [Editorial Report LD] Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic at 1100 GMT on 24 May carries a report on the Fifth National Conference of Mujahidin [veterans] which opened in Algiers 24 May and was addressed by Algerian President Houari Boumediene. The report states that Boumediene dealt with the struggle of the Mujahidin and the role to be played by their organization in the fight to build socialism. The radio correspondent reports:

"The president wondered about the aim of the rich Arab country which is financing the war of Western Sahara, when it knows very well that the Saharans are Arabs and Moslems. The aim of all this is to undermine the pillars of the Algerian revolution, as the president explained, because we do not speak the same language as these states. Why all this financing and why this slaughter at Algeria's back door? It is the aim of these reactionary states to strike at the progressive states to influence matters in their favor.

"There are people in the Western Sahara who are supplying arms--France in the first place; there are those who are supplying the men--Morocco and Mauritania; there are also those who are financing the war in the Arab Maghreb. Alliance between a European great power--France, which has taken it upon itself to be the faithful guardian of Western interests--and the reactionary states in the region is an alliance which has gone beyond the Arab Maghreb region. We are observing this alliance now interfering by force in the Shaba region in Zaire in order to suppress the internal revolution in Kolwezi; we also see this alliance in Chad, and perhaps we will hear about its interference in other remote regions."

Algiers Domestic Service in French at 1800 GMT on 24 May carries a report on the conference which includes the following report on Boumediene's speech:

"The head of state drew a picture of the situation in Africa and in the Arab world, a situation which is dangerous in Africa because it is characterized by attempts at destabilization and at a return to colonialism desired by certain Western powers. Within this framework he denounced the military pacts concluded between France and certain African countries.

"Concerning the Arab world, President Boumediene referred to the lack of solidarity and the weakness of the Arab world, despite its immense potential, particularly its financial potential. In this connection he brought up the attempts (?of leaders) in the Middle East which can only profit imperialism to the detriment of the Palestinian people."

BOUTEFLIKA DENOUNCES FRENCH INTERVENTION IN AFRICA

LD241513Y Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 21 May 78 pp 1, 3 LD

[Report on Foreign Minister Abdelaziz Bouteflika's 20 May speech at the nonalined countries' coordination bureau meeting in Havana]

[Excerpt] Although at the outset people tried to complicate a question which was by definition simple since it was backed by precedents, the present direct intervention by the French armed forces is an additional factor likely to heighten tension and pose an incalculable threat to the peace and security of all the peoples of the Maghreb region and the western Mediterranean basin.

France has a history in this region and it is certainly not a very flattering one. However, we thought that once the colonial phase was over, France would follow a balanced policy with regard to all the peoples of the region, confine itself to the neutrality it has so often proclaimed, defend the principle of self-determination which it claims to uphold and, as a permanent Security Council member, make a positive contribution, in this region at least, to increase French prestige and cultural influence and establish its economic and commercial interests, unless of course France has definitely opted for military interventionism. Unfortunately France is now once again committed to action based on the policy of colonial reconquest with all its implications and consequences. Intervention by a former colonial power in the affairs of our continent deliberately hinders the OAU and nonalined movement's efforts and contradicts the decolonization policy defined by the United Nations. This intervention demands serious consideration since it introduces an element of division of major concern for our peoples and our countries. This policy of intervention against the sovereignty, independence and security of our countries is a challenge to the whole nonalined movement and its principles and at the same time severely tests its ability to establish just and balanced relations which the new international political order demands.

By acting with solidarity we should be able to dismantle the uncontrollable network of imperialist intervention and protect the Third World from the trials of an era which we hope is gone forever.

In view of the present disturbances and threats to the stability of Third World countries, it seems obvious that finishing off colonization altogether is the first requirement for strengthening their security. At a time when the greed of the imperialist powers is again reflected in their various ways of penetrating the Third World, we must not delay any longer the application of decisions guaranteeing the continuation, strengthening and vitality of our movement. It is now more essential than ever that we uphold its principles and all it has achieved in the field of national independence and sovereignty of peoples. It is more essential than ever that we discourage any mercenary policies with a view to insuring respect for international law by scrupulous application of our resolutions and upholding UN decisions. Current events in the Middle East and Africa require close examination so that we can determine ways of taking effective action which meets the objectives we have set ourselves.

In the Middle East the imperialists are clearly attempting to deflect the international community from its fundamental objective, which is still a total liberation of all occupied Arab territories and restoring full national rights to the Palestinian people. The Palestinian people's struggle and the pathetic resistance they are making to aggression clearly express the desire of the whole Arab nation to free itself from imperialist control, to recover its dignity and decide its own fate freely.

With the strong political and military backing of imperialism, Israel is continuing to pursue its policy of aggression, annexation and territorial expansion. The implantation of Zionist colonies in occupied Arab territory, aggravated by the invasion of southern Lebanon, illustrates Israel's obstinacy in defying the international community and dangerously threatening world peace.

I would like to stress the Arab steadfastness front's firm attachment to Arab and international solidarity with the Palestinian people and its total support for a just and lasting settlement on the basis of the unanimous decisions taken at the Arab summit meetings in Algiers and Rabat and later sanctioned by the whole international community. While we respect complete national sovereignty, we are deeply convinced that there can be no separate peace in the Middle East. "Pax Americana" is not real peace, peace without the Palestinians is not real peace and any peace which is not freely supported by all Arab parties concerned could never be real peace.

What we must do, therefore, is reject any policy which heightens Israel's arrogance, makes Israel's allies more inflexible and weakens the solidarity of the international community with the Palestinian people's just cause.

By giving the correct reply to the challenges made to the international community via the Arab peoples, it is evident that, beyond the region's problems, we will maintain the authority and influence of our movement.

Indeed, it is our duty to insure that the temporary split which the enemy has caused in our ranks does not pave the way for further action against our countries, which would jeopardize all we have achieved in the way of nonalinement and return the imperialists to their former positions, which they lost by the struggles and sacrifices of Third World countries.

LIBYA

JALLUD RECEIVES LEBANESE NATIONALIST MOVEMENT DELEGATION

LD242314Y Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1400 GMT 24 May 78 LD

[Summary] Tripoli--Maj 'Abd as-Salam Jallud this morning received a delegation of the Lebanese Nationalist Movement led by Walid Junblatt. They reviewed the Arab situation in general and the situation in Lebanon in particular. They also discussed the role of the Lebanese Nationalist Movement in the stage through which the Arab nation is passing.

SUDAN

PRESIDENT NUMAYRI ADDRESSES REVOLUTION ANNIVERSARY MEETING

LD242054Y Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1657 GMT 24 May 78 LD/EA

[Speech by President Ja'far Numayri to joint meeting of People's National Assembly and People's Regional Assembly at Friendship Hall in Khartoum on ninth anniversary of 25 May Revolution--live]

[Excerpts] Brother citizens, free revolutionaries: As we announce a bold program on salaries, our efforts are at the same time aimed at seeking new resources. In addition to projects in the fields of infrastructure, agriculture, industry, irrigation and social services throughout the entire homeland, work is continuing in harmony with our 6-year plan to search, discover and prospect for resources from under the earth's surface [applause], to search for resources under the earth's surface, such as iron, gold, copper, chrome, mica, asbestos and oil. [applause] Results have been achieved in all these, and there are encouraging signs.

The relentless search for oil continues. I am pleased to announce that the work on the second well, which we have called Wahda [unity] No 1, is approaching its final stages. Experiments on selected strata have revealed signs of oil.

Experimental work will continue until the end of the first week of June. This will be accompanied by an intensive survey of the area of well No 1 in order to ascertain the limits and dimensions of the reservoir in more detail and to indicate where wells should be sunk in other areas. By the end of this year, four wells will have been sunk, varying from 8,000 to 15,000 feet deep. There will then be enough information to enable us to make a full assessment of the potentials of the oil area and to formulate a working plan for the next phase. In this the government will be cooperating with the Chevron Company.

Brothers, the results that have been reached so far are promising and very encouraging and call for greater technical effort and better financial allocations. I must hail the fruitful cooperation between the government institutions [word indistinct] and the Chevron Company, which brought us to these results in a brief period of time. We will strive, brothers, to discover and exploit our oil resources and others.

Revolutionary, free brother citizens, your revolution will continue to be faithful to the principles which it declared as a guide to its foreign policy, with a conscience that does not bargain and an insight that does not (?stray), seeking freedom, justice, peace and liberation for its people and for all the peoples of the world; standing by the strugglers for self-determination and national independence, keeping the homeland away from the pitfalls of alinement; and extending the hand of the people of Sudan to the Arab, African and Islamic peoples and all the peoples of the world for friendship, solidarity and peace.

It will also persist in its pledge of loyalty to the struggle of the Arabs to liberate their land from the Zionist occupation, to fulfill the Palestinian people's hope of returning and establishing their state and to build a lofty present of civilization and progress for the one Arab nation.

Your revolution will continue to be loyal to its pledge to support the African struggle for stability, peace and freedom from conflict, to mobilize its peoples to defeat the racist entities in Namibia, Zimbabwe and South Africa and to achieve freedom on its land for all its peoples.

Adhering to the charter of our African organization, we face our problems in our continent without interference by anybody and we seek to solve them in accordance with the principles and aims of that charter.

In its 10th revolutionary year Sudan takes its leading place among the African and Arab peoples as an advocate of solidarity and freedom and an element of harmony and peace. It is making an effort on the continent with a call for unity among its peoples in their homelands in order to spare the blood of all the people and to direct their potential toward construction and development.

Sudan is truly looking forward to an Arab-African solidarity which will be a correctly guided convergence of the abundant potentials of the Arab and African peoples and their immense resources in order to further the march of peoples bound by a joint struggle against colonialism and racism and for a comprehensive modern advancement to compensate for the losses and to fulfill these people's ambitions for building and development.

Sudan will continue to seek a stable peace, and through peace, prosperity. It supports every responsible effort to put an end to the formidable arms race whose victims can only be the present and future of humanity, the waste of abundant human potential instead of utilizing it for the sake of a new humanitarian world free from hunger, poverty, need and [word indistinct] economic relations among peoples under a just new economic order for the peoples of the Third World that tilts the balance in favor of the toilers and the (?exploited).

SUDANESE-EGYPTIAN COMMITTEE ISSUES RECOMMENDATIONS, RESOLUTIONS

JN241352Y Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1315 GMT 24 May 78 JN

[Text] Khartoum, 24 May--The resolutions and recommendations of the joint technical committee for economy, trade and financial affairs between Sudan and Egypt were signed here today. A joint statement was issued at the end of the committee's meetings, which began on 17 May.

The statement affirms that during the meeting the difficulties involved in forming the joint companies were overcome. Agreement was reached to allow freedom of trade between the two countries and to expand the scope of the border trade as well as to avoid dual taxation and to effect greater customs exemptions and reductions between the two countries.

Sudanese Minister of Trade and Supply Harun al-'Awad signed for Sudan. He also spoke in the signing ceremony, affirming Sudan's eagerness to continue on the path of integration in order to achieve prosperity for the two peoples. Egyptian Minister of Trade Zakariya Tawfiq 'Abd al-Fattah, who signed for Egypt, also spoke, affirming that the implementation of the committee resolutions will have a direct impact on the masses in the two countries.

PLO REPRESENTATIVE PRAISES SUDAN'S ATTITUDE

LD230925Y Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 23 May 78 LD

[Text] Abu Haytham, PLO representative, has praised the stand of the Sudanese people, their leader and their government in support of Palestine and the recovery of the rights of its people from the Zionist enemy. He also emphasized the Palestinian people's firm stand on wresting their rights through steadfastness and relentless struggle. Abu Haytham was speaking at a symposium held last night in Al-Ubayyid by students of Khartoum University at the end of the week of support for the Palestinian revolution. It was attended by the Sudanese Socialist Union secretary, the governor of the northern province of Kordofan and a large crowd of citizens.

TUNISIA

PRESIDENTS OF MAURITANIA, MALI ARRIVE IN TUNIS

LD241218Y Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 24 May 78 LD

[Excerpts] Presidents Moktar Ould Daddah, president of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, and Moussa Traore, president of the Republic of Mali, arrived in Tunis at noon today.

Hold Talks With Bourguiba

LD242130Y Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 24 May 78 LD

[Excerpts] President Habib Bourguiba conferred today at the Republican Palace in Carthage with Moktar Ould Daddah, president of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, and President Moussa Traore, president of the Republic of Mali. The conversation took place in the presence of Prime Minister Hedi Nouira, Foreign Minister Mohamed Fitouri, Mauritanian Foreign Minister Hamdi Ould Mouknass, Malian Foreign Minister Col Charles S. Sissoke [as heard], Mauritanian Minister of Planning Abdoulaye Baro and Mauritanian Ambassador in Tunis Mohamed Moktar Marouf.

The second round of Tunisian-Mauritanian talks, held this evening at the government palace in Al-Qasabah, ended at 1830. In addition to Prime Minister Hedi Nouira, present at these talks were: Foreign Minister Mohamed Fitouri, Mustapha Zaanouni, minister delegate to the prime minister in charge of planning, and the government secretary general.

On the Mauritanian side the talks were attended by President Moktar Ould Daddah, Foreign Minister Hamdi Ould Mouknass, Minister of Planning Abdoulaye Baro and Mauritanian Ambassador to Tunisia Mohamed Moktar Marouf.

At the end of the second round of talks, which started at 1630, Mauritanian President Moktar Ould Daddah made a statement. [passage indistinct]

President Moussa Traore left Tunis at 1300 this afternoon after a technical stopover during which he had a conversation with President Habib Bourguiba.

L'ACTION COMMENTS ON TUNISIAN-LIBYAN RELATIONS

LD241513Y Tunis L'ACTION in French 17 May 78 p 1 LD

[By Moncef Chihi]

[Text] Mr Hedi Nouira's visit to the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah has marked a turning point of major importance in the relations between our two countries. It occurred at an opportune time and confirms a general trend which has marked the development of bilateral relations in recent months.

Both sides have decided to impart an even more concrete content--a content based on efforts to satisfy the two peoples' needs within a framework of effective, productive and fruitful cooperation--to the relations between the two countries. For, apart from traditional links between the two countries, imperatives imposed by the fact that they are neighbors and by the interests they have in common call for the development of bilateral cooperation.

It is especially at the mutual economic level that the two countries want to increase the rate of their exchange within a framework where the harmony of means and objectives prevails and the similarity of their views will be expressed most clearly and effectively. The two sides have agreed to take measures likely to establish even closer relations between their peoples and insure better opportunities for achieving a higher living standard in the near future, whether in the agricultural and industrial spheres or in the spheres of transportation and travel.

The fraternal feelings and cordial atmosphere which prevailed during the deliberations of the joint Tunisian-Libyan higher commission were a portent of cooperation based on a sounder foundation showing respect for the interests of the two fraternal peoples. Therefore, it is not an exaggeration to state that the prospects now opening for Tunisian-Libyan relations are wider and more comprehensive than before.

WESTERN SAHARA

DEFENSE MINISTRY ISSUES COMMUNIQUE ON OPERATIONS

LD230530Y Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 22 May 78 LD

[Text] The Saharan Democratic Arab Republic Defense Ministry published a military communique yesterday about the operations carried out by the Saharan People's Liberation Army on both the northern and southern fronts. The communique said that the Saharan revolutionaries attacked a number of Moroccan fortresses in the north and even inside the Moroccan territory, using various weapons. The enemy's positions in Tifariti, Ausert and [names indistinct] were the targets of the operations. In 1 week alone the Saharan revolutionaries killed over 100 Moroccan and Mauritanian soldiers and took about 50 prisoners. They also captured 6 trucks, 3 machineguns, 4 wireless sets, 54 light arms, and a quantity of ammunition. In addition, they destroyed other quantities of equipment.

KNESSET MAJORITY DEFEATS NO-CONFIDENCE MOTION

TA241230Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 24 May 78 TA

[Excerpt] The Knesset today rejected a motion of no confidence in the cabinet by a majority of 66 coalition votes, with 32 representatives of the Alinement, Hadash, Sheli and Raz voting against the motion. The representative of the Independent Liberals abstained from voting.

LEBANON PROPOSES REVIVING MIXED ARMISTICE COMMISSION

TA240810Y Jerusalem POST in English 24 May 78 p 1 TA

[By David Landau]

[Text] Lebanon has formally proposed to Israel that the two countries hold a meeting of the Mixed Armistice Commission. Senior policymakers are presently discussing Israel's response, and the final decision is expected to be taken by the cabinet or the Ministerial Defence Committee.

The idea of reviving the long-defunct MAC was originally proposed by Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan in a conversation with UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim last month. Waldheim's reaction was enthusiastic, and the Lebanese, it now appears, have taken up the idea with alacrity.

The MACs, which comprised officers and diplomats from Israel and each of her neighbours, were created by the 1949 armistice agreements and used to meet with varying degrees of frequency until 1967. The 6-day war swept away the armistice on the other three fronts, thereby putting an end to the MAC system. On the Lebanese front, too, although there were no hostilities there, the system broke down after a Lebanese officer informed Israel, through the UN, that "a state of war" existed.

There continued to be occasional meetings between Israeli and Lebanese representatives--but Israel has never regarded these meetings as sessions of the MAC.

Dayan's idea to revive the MAC is intended to provide a means of maintaining high-level contacts with Beirut even after the final Israeli pullback from southern Lebanon on June 13. Israel will seek to keep up its pressure on the Lebanese Government to gradually reassert its authority in the south, as envisaged in UN Security Council Resolution 425 which called for Israel's withdrawal and the creation of UNIFIL (UN Interim Force in Lebanon).

Moreover, the resuscitation of MAC would give Beirut an opportunity to indicate its rejection of the Cairo agreement of 1971, which gave the Palestine Liberation Organization the right to operate against Israel out of southern Lebanon. The armistice agreement banned any such "paramilitary or irregular" operation by one signatory against the other.

Officials here, who are wary of reviving the Israel-Lebanon MAC, apparently fear that this might set a dangerous precedent of turning the clock back to the pre-1967 situation--a precedent which the Arabs would demand be applied to the other fronts too.

Meanwhile, senior UN aide Roberto Guyer flew back to New York yesterday, assuring newsmen at Ben-Gurion Airport that UNIFIL is ready and able to keep the peace in southern Lebanon and prevent armed incursions. Guyer met here with Dayan after visiting Beirut and Damascus. When asked about the situation in southern Lebanon, at the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee meeting, Weizman said the "good fence" arrangement would continue as before despite the plans for total Israel withdrawal from southern Lebanon by the middle of next month.

DAYAN, PERES DISCUSS NEGOTIATIONS IN KNESSET SPEECHES

TA241324Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 24 May 78 TA

[Text] The foreign minister said in the Knesset that a document had been received from the United States at the end of the week with its answers to the questions Israel had put to it on political matters. The cabinet will discuss this document on Sunday and so it was not possible to hold a political discussion in the Knesset this week. The cabinet wanted a debate to be held. The foreign minister was replying to a draft motion submitted by MK Shim'on Peres. It was agreed by the coalition and the opposition that the political issue should be discussed in the Knesset.

On the matter of the declaration of principles between Egypt and Israel, the foreign minister said it should be remembered that Egypt is likely to sign a declaration that satisfies the entire Arab world and such a declaration would have to be extremist. President as-Sadat has also stated his principles, which are a comprehensive withdrawal and the right of the Palestinians to define themselves as they wish.

Peres proposed that the cabinet make a greater effort to come closer to the United States, instead of permitting Egypt to do so. There is a basis for cooperation with the United States, Mr Peres said, and if we do not do so we are likely to lose both Washington and peace. He pointed out that the United States is not demanding that we return to the 1967 borders, is not claiming that a Palestinian state must be established, is not supporting the incorporation of the PLO in the talks and, in its view, presence in Judaea and Samaria is possible during both the interim period and afterward.

Dayan Defends Government

TA241719Y Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 24 May 78 TA

[From the Afternoon Newsreel]

[Text] Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan disclosed today that on Friday the U.S. ambassador to Israel handed him the Egyptian responses to the questions presented by the prime minister and the foreign minister. These questions were presented via the United States during their last visit to Washington. The responses, the foreign minister said, do not satisfy us.

The cabinet will discuss the Egyptian responses in its session on Sunday. The foreign minister added that the U.S. administration is not pushing Israel to respond to the question presented to us regarding the Israeli peace plan, among other things because the draft recently presented by the Egyptians in response to the U.S. proposal is unacceptable even to Washington.

The foreign minister spoke in response to a motion for the agenda submitted by MK Shim'on Peres, from the Alinement, concerning the need to hold a political discussion.

The Knesset decided by a majority vote and with the consent of the government to hold a political debate, probably next week. Our Knesset correspondent, Moshe Hakohen, has more on today's Knesset debate. [begin recording]

Opposition leader Shim'on Peres opened his statement by complaining that the prime minister does not consult anyone but himself on political issues and does not include the Knesset in his decisions, and sometimes not even the government. Shim'on Peres devoted the main part of his speech to leveling harsh criticism at the government's policy, based on its peace plan, and mainly at the new approach to circumvent the declaration of principles, as presented by Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan in Washington.

[Peres] The new approach says that instead of Jordan, and we prefer Jordan, Egypt will enter the negotiations about the future of Judaea, Samaria and Gaza. Members of the Knesset, could Egypt be more flexible than Jordan or the Palestinians? After Mr Begin's cabinet conceded the entire Sinai, refrained from standing firm on a secure border beween us and Egypt, that cabinet is now preparing for us a parallel proposal regarding Judaea and Samaria, comforting itself by saying that this will be done in two stages rather than one, so that it could argue that the Gahal [Herut-Liberal bloc] platform could exist, a semifeeble existence, for 5 years, and afterward we will hope to God that the voters will remove the Likud from power.

[Hakohen] Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan took the podium to reply to the motion on behalf of the government. First he announced that the government is ready to hold a political debate in the Knesset. From there, the foreign minister moved to the latest political developments.

[Dayan] I want to remind the members of the Knesset that during the talks the prime minister and I held recently in Washington, not only were we asked questions, but we also presented to the Department of State questions to be forwarded to Egypt on our behalf to clarify whether there is--and what is--that same basis and those deliberations for which MK Peres has such little regard, the practical, concrete deliberations regarding a peace settlement. We have received the answers. I would not say that the answers are satisfactory, but what I want to say is that the United States did indeed receive these questions and took the burden to approach Egypt and clarify these questions, and that took some time.

[Hakohen] The Egyptian answers were forwarded by U.S. Ambassador to Israel Samuel Lewis to the foreign minister last Friday. They will be discussed in the cabinet next Sunday.

As for the U.S. questions presented to Israel, which were also included in the memorandum that Ambassador Lewis presented to the government, the foreign minister said that the United States is not pressuring us for a reply.

[Dayan] One of the reasons for this is that when the United States received an Egyptian draft proposal to their own proposal, it seemed to the United States so impossible, so impossible, that they, to use delicate language, returned it to its authors with an explanation that even the United States would not suggest that Israel accept this as a basis for discussion.

[Hakohen] The foreign minister then polemicized with the heads of the Alinement from whose words it emerged, in his opinion, that they could have achieved peace with Egypt within 24 hours.

[Dayan] As-Sadat's position today is that he is not ready to make a separate peace agreement regarding Egypt, and it is very doubtful whether he regards himself qualified to make a peace agreement regarding Judaea and Samaria. The condition for him to decide whether to move in the direction of a declaration of principles when Israel makes the commitment in advance to withdrawal from all the territories, including the Golan Heights, and give the Palestinian Arabs the right to establish a Palestinian Arab state [sentence as heard]. Well, whoever says that if it were he who conducted the negotiations with As-Sadat, or thinks that he would have succeeded in bringing him to a different position, or--and perhaps this is the truth--that he would have been willing to sign on these conditions, may God help him. [end recording]

Further Details

TA241921Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1710 GMT 24 May 78 TA

[From the Evening Newsreel]

[Excerpts] From the Knesset, here is a report by Razi Barqa'i: [begin recording]

The head of the opposition attacks the cabinet's foreign policy, and he has his reasons: You have permitted As-Sadat to appear in the United States as a peacelover; you have excluded Husayn from the negotiations, you have put Israel into political turmoil from which it is hard to escape.

[Peres] The very first steps have proved this and have caused harm to Israel, because instead of trying to reach an agreement on the declaration of principles, we were caught by the matter of rejecting Resolution 242 and its application regarding Jordan. Until we repaired the damage, at an agonizingly late date, Egypt was able to present itself as a peacelover, abiding by UN resolutions, and to present Israel as the opposite. What the Begin plan is doing is everything the Alinement has avoided doing all these years. Begin is proposing a map, the 1967 map. He proposes a 5-year calendar and if I may say, with all due respect, this in fact is an invitation to turn Begin's plan into the Brookings plan.

[Barqa'i] MK Peres said that the actual interpretation of the Brookings plan is the establishment of a Palestinian state in Judaea, Samaria and Gaza. The issues are far too important for us to continue as usual, and therefore MK Shim'on Peres proposed a plenary debate.

Mr Dayan defended the government's peace plan and redetermined that sticking to the declaration of principles, a declaration made jointly by us and the Egyptians, would not have moved the negotiations any further. There would have been a need to begin discussing concrete issues.

[Dayan] Does anyone who is not naive here, who has visited the Arab world and seen the political reality, conceive that when the reference is to the declaration of principles, the president of Egypt could sign a declaration of principles that is not extremist? Could he allow himself to do so publicly, briefly, and there, and not in an actual discussion of what will happen in the Gaza Strip, or what will happen near the Jordan River and where there will be Israeli forces and what will happen to the settlements?

[Barqa'i] The foreign minister's conclusion: Better actual discussions than a public, bombastic declaration, which would only cause the hardening of the Arabs' positions. Mr Dayan announced that the government will deal with Israel's responses to the U.S. document on Sunday, and that he had no objection to the Knesset holding a political debate afterward, during which it would also hear the government's decision. The majority has it, then, that the issue will be on the Knesset's agenda. [end recording]

SETTLEMENT PLAN SAID TO REQUIRE EXPROPRIATION

TA242042Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 24 May 78 TA

[Text] Senior officials who deal with the settlement issue told our correspondent today that if the government intends to realize the settlement plans in Judaea and Samaria there will be no other way but to take control of large areas of land and perhaps even to expropriate lands.

In many settlements it is impossible to carry out plans, because the arrangements regarding land have not been solved and the areas of the temporary camps are too small to be turned into permanent settlements. Our correspondent for settlement affairs, Yig'al Goren, reveiws the issue of land in Judaea and Samaria: [Begin videotape]

'Ofra, the first Gush Emunim settlement, is a typical example of a settlement whose development is being delayed because of the lack of land. Even though it was recognized by the government as a full-fledged settlement approximately a year ago, permanent houses were built there only recently. All the buildings in 'Ofra are prefabs; they are crowded together. The main reason for this is lack of land. On the land it does have, 300 dunams, held even during the previous government's rule, it is possible to erect only 50 new buildings, but it is not enough to build public buildings or to expand the settlement according to plan. For that there is a need for an additional 500 dunams which have still not been acquired.

[Moshe Merhavia, member of 'Ofra's Executive Council] I have learned from professionals, who deal with the problem of land, that for a year there has been a great deal of stubbornness on the whole issue of obtaining land for settlements, Jewish settlements, that is.

[Goren] Stubbornness on the part of whom?

[Merhavia] Stubbornness on the part of elements in charge of taking land. Without land, it must be clear, there is no way to make settlements. A policy of stammering that on the one hand says yes to settlements, but on the other does not allocate land, only makes a fool of itself and does not solve the problem.

[Goren] If it is decided to implement the outline plans in 'Ofra and the other settlements, there will be no choice but to expropriate more land. This is the opinion of all settlement experts, for otherwise the settlements cannotexist. The problem is that besides stony land, which is not private property, there is private land near many settlements, and this makes long-term planning more difficult. Even with regard to taking possession of stony land, the government has not yet passed a clear-cut decision which would apply to all elements and permit taking wide-scale possession.

For the time being, ground preparation is continuing in places where there is no land problem, such as these works near the Bet El camp. The work here is being carried out on land captured by the IDF in previous years. They have served for training purposes and now have been transferred to the settlers. At the first stage the settlement unit will construct 90 buildings; however, the realization of the entire plan for Bet El would require taking more land in the future. It is clear to anyone close to the settlement issue that the land issue, which has been raised once again with a great deal of noise, was expected--sooner or later--because there is no way to develop the settlements that already exist in the area without taking possession of more land. So far there has not been any master plan for the settlement of Judaea and Samaria, and in fact each ministry operates independently. Settlement experts told me today that the defense minister's announcement that there will not be expropriations is not realistic, because already this week it has been learned that the ministry has a plan to establish six new cities, for which thousands of dunams are needed. The experts say that there is no choice but to take possession of lands and even to expropriate them if the defense minister intends to realize his ministry's plan. [end videotape]

GUSH EMUNIM CONTINUES TO LEAD GOVERNMENT 'BY NOSE'

TA241553Y Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 24 May 78 p 5 TA

[Dani Rubinstein article]

[Text] In the West Bank 20 settlements of Gush Emunim and their sympathizers are now in stages of organization and development. Except for one settlement, all the rest have already settled on the land and everywhere large-scale land preparation and construction work is being carried out.

The settlements are:
Dotan, in northern Samaria, in the Sanur Valley. Located in a military camp and exposed to social difficulties, it was recently affiliated with the Haihud Hahaqla'i Settlement Movement [of the Liberal Party], following an agreement with Gush Emunim;
Shomron, west of Nabulus, near Sabastiyah, within the framework of a military camp;
Allon More (Qaddum). The settlement is a relatively large and consolidated one, in stages of a rapid economic and social expansion. It has become a permanent settlement;
Qarne Shomron, on the Nabulus-Qalqilyah road, on the western slopes of the Samaria ridges, within a military camp;
Tapu'ah, south of Nabulus. The settlement was approved by the Knesset Security and Foreign Affairs Committee. On the site is a vanguard group from the nucleus that is to settle in the next few weeks;
Shilo, a camp of "archaeological diggers." A number of families and Yeshiva students. Gush Emunim handles all the problems of the settlement, its construction and expansion, as official institutions keep "ignoring" it;
Neve Zuf (An-Nabi Salih), west of Ramallah, within an army camp. There were a few social problems at first, but now the settlement is on its way to social and economic consolidation;
Bet Horon, west of Ramallah, midway on the road to Latrun, in an army camp;
Bet El, within the confines of an army camp, manned by Yeshiva students and designed to become a regional center;
Giv'on, within the framework of a military camp, south of Ramallah. Slated to be an urban settlement in the Defense Ministry's plan. There is a group of immigrants from the Soviet Union there;
'Ofra, a relatively veteran and consolidated settlement east of Ramallah, successful in its socioeconomic consolidation, a permanent settlement.
Ma'ale Ha'adumim, near the industrial center on the Jerusalem-Jericho road. Defined as a permanent settlement and well adjusted socially.
Mizpe Yeriho, about 10 km east of Ma'ale Ha'adumim, overlooks the town of Jericho. Only a few settlers are there. Was described at the time as a suburb of Ma'ale Ha'adumim. Gush Emunim is endeavoring to reconsolidate the settlement;
Teqo'a, described as a permanent settlement east of Bethlehem. A nucleus of immigrants from the Soviet Union is living there. Was approved in the past to be a military foothold;
Qiryat Arba', the Jewish quarter of Hebron. There are some 300 families on the spot, and hundreds of empty housing units;
Elqana (Masha) on the southwestern slopes of the Samaria ridges, east of Kefar Qasim. Besides the permanent nucleus, there is also a group of immigrants from the Soviet Union on the site;
Ma'ale Nahal (Silat Az-Zahr), a Nahal foothold in northern Samaria. Was approved by the Knesset Committee for Security and Foreign Affairs;
Haris, south of Nabulus. The third settlement to be approved by the Knesset Security and Foreign Affairs Committee. Preparations are under way on the site to absorb a nucleus of workers from the military industry.

Yatir, astride the "green line" border, south of Hebron, is encountering difficulties; Shekhem (in planning stages), a nucleus of familes from Allon More (Qaddum), who plan to settle on a hilly ridge east of Nabulus, and thus establish the Jewish Shekhem. Members of the nucleus say they will set the date for their settling on the site according to political circumstances, with or without official permission.

It emerges from the list of settlements that most of them were established in Samaria in the heart of areas populated by Arabs, with a clear political aim to thwart any possible Israeli concession in the West Bank. During the winter the development of the settlements was frozen to some extent, as several of the government bodies attempted to delay development, while others tried to help and supplied money. About 2 months ago, with the end of the rainy season and in view of the deadlock in the political negotiations, large-scale ground preparation and construction work was begun. Surveys are being made to locate appropriate land, and areas are being fenced in to transform the footholds into permanent settlements. Gush Emunim together with the appropriate departments in the Defense Ministry, the Agriculture Ministry and the Housing Ministry, as well as the Jewish Agency Settlement Division, are acting toward consolidating the settlement nuclei and planning their future.

In addition to the settlements listed above, which have been established according to a makeshift Gush Emunim plan under pressure and amid struggles with the government, there also exists a parallel Defense Ministry plan for the construction of six urban centers in Judaea and Samaria. The Defense Ministry plan is at the initial stages of discussion and Gush Emunim leaders are exploiting its existence to expand their activities. Gush Emunim has a permanent plan for the construction of dozens more settlements in the West Bank. The Gush Emunim secretariat has its suspicions about 'Ezer Weizman, while Arik Sharon is the only cabinet member who helps and advises them as a real friend.

Prime Minister Menahem Begin is regarded by the Gush Emunim with some apprehensions. They are strongly opposed to Begin's peace plan and, particularly, to the matter of autonomy, which is liable, in their view, to weaken the Israeli hold on Judaea and Samaria. Their chief aim at this stage is to consolidate the above-mentioned 20 settlements and transform them into as large as possible permanent settlements. In closed meetings of the Gush leadership, the expansion of these settlements is spoken of as the tool by which the government peace plan will be broken up and removed from the agenda. For the summer, Gush Emunim members and their supporters have various plans: if progress is gained in the political negotiations, the Gush will prepare another group of settlement nuclei to settle in a manner similar to that adopted on the last Succoth holiday, in an attempt to preclude any possibility of conceding Israeli sovereignty over Judaea and Samaria. The Gush is preparing extensive informational and organizational campaigns and it will be exerting constant pressure on cabinet members to withdraw from the peace plan. A group of Gush leaders even proposed an emergency plan for special tasks.

There is a group in Gush Emunim that demands immediate settlement on one of the hills controlling Nabulus (see last settlement on the list above), believing that such a drastic step would put an end to ideas of Palestinian autonomy in Judaea and Samaria. Such an operation is not to be ruled out in the next few weeks, according to political circumstances at the time.

So far, Gush Emunim activities have won dazzling success. This is a group of young people behaving like a political settlement movement while exploiting the confusion and weaknesses in every part of Israeli society. They are firm in their decision and they are sticking to their missions. A possible peace does not interest them. The problem of more than a million Palestinians under Israeli rule does not give them cause for concern. They realized that they can lead the Likud government "by the nose" just as they had led Alinement governments while exploiting internal strife among ministers and institutions, and while enlisting some kind of support they seem to enjoy among the general public. They actually can do today whatever they desire, and dictate to the state of Israel its policy, as they have managed to do in the past.

MK SHARIR: U.S. ATTEMPTING TO BLACKEN ISRAELI IMAGE

TA2411179 Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 24 May 78 p 5 TA

[Text] "There is a clear attempt on the part of the U.S. administration to blacken the image of the Israeli Cabinet and particularly that of Mr Menahem Begin, and thereby cause a split in the Jewish community in the United States," thinks chairman of the Likud Knesset faction, MK Avraham Sharir, who returned from a U.S. lecture tour on behalf of the Foreign Ministry. He also said that administration and State Department officials are constantly feeding the media with purposeful and tendentious reports that present Israel as being stubborn and solely responsible for the deadlock in the negotiations for peace.

MK Sharir said that today Israel must fight for the public opinion in the United States, of Jews and gentiles alike. In his estimation, the struggle against the administration is as good as lost. President Carter's administration is firm in its intention to cross over from a position of supporting Israel to a neutral position, which would favor the Arabs (if all goes well). Mr Sharir points out that the administration's deal, "the U.S. President's promise to supply an additional quantity of aircraft to Israel, is only an attempt to numb us and improve our feelings until the storm is over."

MK Sharir, who served for several years as consul general in Atlanta and in Los Angeles and who has known Carter since he was governor of Georgia, thinks the U.S. President's main problem is the fact that he never held a federal job before being elected president. Carter does not understand the problems of the Middle East. He is influenced by his advisers and by their reports. MK Sharir thinks that the U.S. President is taking a simplistic view of the Middle East problem and that he believes that acceding to As-Sadat's terms, with a few modifications, will bring about peace in the area. Mr Sharir believes that the administration hostility toward Israel is not about to lessen, but that it is liable even to increase.

SHARP RESPONSE TO WHO CONDEMNATION VOTE REPORTED

TA2408000 Jerusalem POST in English 24 May 78 p 2 TA

[Text] The Foreign Ministry reacted strongly last night to the anti-Israel resolution passed yesterday by the World Health Organization assembly in Geneva.

A ministry statement issued in Jerusalem described the resolution as being characterized by a desire to slander Israel in connection with medical services provided for the inhabitants of the administered territories, and by a political approach which deviated from the terms of reference of the organization and which showed to what extent it had surrendered to Arab pressure.

Israel faced a possible threat to its voting rights in the WHO yesterday after being condemned for alleged inhumane treatment of Arab prisoners, changing the structure of the territories it administers and "arbitrary practices affecting the physical, social and psychological health" of their inhabitants.

Twenty-two Arab, African and communist states pushed through the resolution against opposition from the U.S., Canada, Austria, New Zealand and most West European countries. There were 22 abstentions, nine of them by Latin American nations. There was no debate.

The Foreign Ministry statement added that the special agencies of the UN had in the past been a source of pride on account of their part in advancing the welfare of the needy without being influenced by political considerations.

Israel was not the only state to have warned about the politicization of the UN agencies. The U.S. had mentioned it, and so had Denmark, speaking for the European Community, the statement said. Israel expressed its thanks to those states that had opposed the WHO resolution, the statement concluded.

EGYPTIAN INDUSTRIALISTS VISIT ISRAEL

TA182105Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 18 May 78 TA

[Text] Since President as-Sadat's visit, several Egyptian industrialists have come to Israel and expressed interest in possibilities for cooperation with their counterparts in Israel. This was revealed by the governor of the Bank of Israel, Aronon Ga'afni, in a lecture in the Ben-Gurion University in Beersheva on the economy of the Middle East and the chances for peace.

WRITERS DELEGATION TO VISIT EGYPT

TA181404Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 18 May 78 TA

[Text] The Interior Ministry has allowed the departure of the NEW OUTLOOK monthly delegation for Egypt. Among the members of the delegation are Professors Shim'on Shamir, Sha'ul Friedlander, Yehoshu'a Ari'eli, David Shaham, Dr Hayyim (Derin), Simha Flafan and Efrayin Gafni. The delegation will depart for Egypt in 4 days. Our correspondent points out that it is the policy of the Interior Ministry to approve requests of writers and journalists provided they receive an invitation.

AFGHANISTAN

TANJUG REPORTS 500 PRISONERS RE ASED IN AFGHANISTAN

LD241420Y Belgrade TANJUG in En lish 1140 GMT 24 May 78 LD

[Text] Kabul, May 24 (TANJUG)-- lmost five hundred people put under arrest and sentenced to various punishments under th preceding regime have been released from prison in recent days as part of the start n a great revision of all insufficiently investigated cases and in a check of the fai ness of court authorities.

According to an official announ ement, more than 24,000 convicts sentenced to various terms during the previous regim s are to be found in Afghanistan's prisons now. About 6,000 complaints or requests fo retrial have been filed with the courts of cassation but not yet decided. By the Re olutionary Council's decision, special commissions were set up now and entrusted with t e task of summarily "investigating into all these cases" and "in conformity with the working people's interests and the revolutionary goals," setting free all those innocent and wrongly convicted. The bulk of those released or pardoned so far were sentenced before as vagabonds or for not paying their sharecropping rents debts and high usury interests due, for food filching and other petty thefts.

BANGLADESH

DACCA RADIO COMMENTS ON UN DISARMAMENT SESSION

BK241645Y Dacca Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 24 May 78 BK

[Station commentary]

[Text] Representatives of 149 member countries of the United Nations are now in New York to attend the UN special conference on disarmament. In view of its importance, the conference is being widely attended by members of the world body. The UN secretary general, Dr Kurt Waldheim, has aptly described it as the biggest conference on the issue in recent years. This is an issue which has been disturbing world peace for a long time and has been widely discussed everywhere.

The world has been [words indistinct] of mass destruction due to the use of destructive weapons. Above all it has experienced two world wars. The mass destruction of men and material in the Second World War still haunts the minds of man. Hundreds of thousands died in those two great wars and dozens of countries [words indistinct]. Human history is replete with stories of man's war against man. It is man who has killed more of his fellow beings than any other thing. Down the ages, with the progress of civilization, man has gone on making deadlier and more sophisticated weapons to destroy fellow humans.

After the Second World War, it was expected that the countries who were mainly responsible for man's miseries during the war would divert attention toward building a happy and prosperous world; unfortunately, this has not come true. On the contrary, the germs of conflict are still there.

The present age has witnessed a spurt in the production of arms and weapons. The superpowers are piling up weapons with more destructive power. The stockpile of arms in the arsenal of the big powers is simply frightening. The amount of explosives and armaments present in the world today is more than sufficient to destroy the tiny earth many times over.

Needless to say, the weapons revolution that we are witnessing today poses a grave threat to life on earth. The development of nuclear weapons in the wake of World War II has brought the world to the verge of instant annihilation. In fact, since the Second World War, the superpowers have been in a race to produce more, deadlier arms. The ICBM's, the MIRV's, the SRVM's are the latest additions to their arsenals. Increasing the danger for humanity is the fact that nuclear arms are being acquired by more and more countries with the passage of time.

The arms race has assumed such an alarming proportion that increasing demands have been made by countries, particularly the Third World countries, to stop the race of rearmament, but underground tests of nuclear weapons continue unabated.

It is a realization that more arms do not necessarily insure more safety or draw the United States and the USSR to the negotiating table to discuss how to limit strategic arms. The Strategic Arms Limitation Talks, popularly known as SALT, have not produced any positive results so far. The partial test ban treaty also expected to halt the arms race. But all these have been half-hearted measures. It means there are still a number of unresolved problems to be agreed upon in this regard.

The nonalined countries who met in Havana in connection with a meeting of the Nonalined Coordination Bureau called for a halt to the development and production of all weapons of mass destruction. The Sri Lanka suggestion for the creation of a world disarmament authority, which could be a permanent institution of the UN, was highly appreciated by most of the nonalined members. [Words indistinct] in connection with the disarmament conference also emphasized the need for putting an early end to the arms race.

It is indeed a sad commentary on the fate of the world today that while a majority of mankind does not get enough to eat, there are others who spend the staggering figure of $300 billion on armaments each year. This is a sum which is equal to a total annual income of the developing countries. It is a fact that much of the development requirements of the developing countries would be met in substantial part if resources freed by measures in the field of disarmament could be used to [words indistinct] economic development of the developing countries. The world today would certainly have a much happier face if the money which is spent on making new sophisticated arms could be spent on development.

We hope that the current UN special conference on disarmament will deal with all aspects of the issue.

INDIA

JAGJIVAN RAM ADDRESSES INDIAN COMMUNITY IN MOSCOW

BK2415311Y Delhi ISI in English 1441 GMT 24 May 78 BK

[Text] Defense Minister Jagjivan Ram gave the Indian community in Moscow a rapid survey of India's domestic scene and the country's external relations, reports PTI.

Jagjivan Ram addressed the Indian community after a reception held in his honour by Ambassador I. K. Gujral attended by top Soviet military leaders.

Jagjivan Ram told the Indian community of India's efforts to improve relations with Bangladesh and Pakistan and of the satisfactory state of relations with Nepal and Sri Lanka.

With China, too, he said India was trying to improve relations and in recent contacts between the two countries there had been some positive response from China.

Jagjivan Ram said in all history India had never been expansionist. It had never gone out to conquer territory, only to conquer minds. If it had taken to arms, that was only to defend itself against aggression.

He said that after the last elections India's prestige in the world had risen high. All countries were convinced that India was pursuing the same foreign policy as was laid down by Jawaharlal Nehru, trying to be genuinely nonaligned, trying to improve relations with all, especially with neighbours.

Jagjivan Ram said the main problem in India was to fight against poverty and to create conditions in which every citizen could have prime necessities and a moderate standard of living.

INDIA-HUNGARY JOINT COMMISSION TALKS OPEN IN BUDAPEST

BK241617Y Delhi ISI in English 1432 GMT 24 May 78 BK

[Text] The third session of the Indo-Hungarian Joint Commission for Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation had its first plenary meeting at Budapest on May 22. At this session the two cochairmen--Indian Minister of Industry George Fernandes and Hungarian Minister of Light Industry Mrs Janos Keseru--reviewed the progress of cooperation between the two countries and remitted several new projects for detailed discussion by the working groups who have been directed to work out a time-bound programme for implementation.

During the last year there has been significant progress in the export of engineering goods from India to Hungary, chiefly lamps, machinery components, bicycle parts, shoe uppers, leather products, hand tools and automobile parts. It was agreed that exports of engineering items from India to Hungary would be enlarged to cover several new items like machine tools, handlooms, readymade garments and handicrafts.

During discussions on identifying new areas of cooperation, the Indian minister indicated the priorities of the new industrial policy of the government and of the new plan, chiefly in respect of the development of agricultural rural areas, the promotion of small-scale cottage and rural industries for increasing mass employment and the development of rural areas. The Hungarian minister also indicated the industrial priorities during the next 5 years of the Hungarian Government, chiefly relating to reducing labour shortages by transferring labour intensive lines of production.

Keeping in view the priorities of both countries, several new projects were indentified based on the complementarities of production and technology of both countries with further utilisation of the expertise and manpower of India. These relate mainly to the setting up of an alumina project in Gujarat, the titanium processing project in Kerala and tungsten ore mining and processing in [words indistinct], technology for the development of rural telecommunications in India, the setting up of several leather units in India for exports of shoe uppers and shoes to Hungary, technical cooperation for water management and development of agriculture, chiefly in respect of post harvestation technology, animal husbandry and fisheries.

Both countries agreed to enlarge collaboration between HMT [Hindustan Machine Tools] and Tungsram which has already proved successful in last year in respect of the manufacture of bulbs and lamp making machinery, the manufacture of flourescent tubes and other diversified products.

The industry minister visited the Tungsram factory where details for extending the range of the manufacture of bulbs and for collaboration in third country projects were agreed to. The Indian side is also negotiating with the Hungarian Government for cooperation in setting up a coke oven project in Hungary envisaging triangular arrangements for the supply of plant equipment and exports.

The two cochairmen also gave their directions for settlement of outstanding matters relating to the conclusion of a bilateral shipping agreement between the two countries. The working groups on industrial cooperation, agriculture, telecommunications, drugs and pharmaceuticals have commenced their deliberations and would be reporting to the joint commission. Protocol indicating the time-bound programmes for increasing trade between the two countries and taking up several new projects would be signed on May 25 after further discussions between the cochairmen.

PAKISTAN

AGHA SHAHI DENIES HAVING DISCUSSED BHUTTO CASE WITH IRAN

BK230824Y Karachi Domestic Service in English 0030 GMT 23 May 78 BK

[Text] The adviser on foreign affairs, Mr Agha Shahi, has said that his recent discussions in Teheran covered both important developments in the region and matters of bilateral interest, which included the question of Iranian assistance to Pakistan. More particularly, he said, he requested that the matter of Iranian guarantee for a loan of $300 million, which Pakistan wanted to raise in the international market, should be expedited.

In a letter to the editor of the daily NAWAI WAQT of Rawalpindi, Mr Agha Shahi categorically stated that the matter of trial of the former prime minister, Mr Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, did not figure in any formal or informal talks which he held in Teheran.

JOURNALISTS SENTENCED BY LAHORE MILITARY COURTS

BK241718Y Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 24 May 78 BK

[Text] Various summary military courts in Lahore today sentenced 13 journalists, press workers and nonjournalists to various terms of imprisonment and fines and released two after warnings.

SUPREME COURT CONTINUES HEARING BHUTTO CASE 23 MAY

BK231600Y Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 23 May 78 BK

[Text] The Supreme Court today ordered the submission to it of the records and reports of the investigative tribunal comprised of Justice Shafiur Rahman which was set up by the then prime minister [Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto] to investigate the murder of Mr Mohammad Ahmed Khan. The chief justice, Mr S. Anawarul Haq, has appointed a judge of the Supreme Court, Mr Justice Mohammad Halim, to review the records and reports of this tribunal. One representative each from the prosecution and the defense will help Mr Justice Mohammad Halim in reviewing these records and reports.

This order was given when defense counsels, during their submissions, referred to the testimony of witnesses that Mr Ahmed Reza Kasuri had given a second statement to the tribunal. The defense counsels maintained that Mr Ahmed Reza Kasuri had not given a second statement to the investigative tribunal.

When asked by the court, the advocate of records, Mr M.A. Rahman, assured the court that he was told that complete records and the tribunal's reports exist in their original copies. He made it clear, however, that these reports had not been made public.

The defense counsel, Mr Yahya Bakhtiar, today continued his arguments. Presenting the preliminary survey of the case, he especially referred to evidence which, according to him, proved the biased attitude of the court hearing the case.

The court will continue hearing the case tomorrow.

BRIEFS

INDIA-FRANCE AIR AGREEMENT--India and France have reached an agreement which permits Air India to operate seven services per week to or through Paris. Out of these, Air India can terminate up to a maximum of three services per week in Paris. The agreement permits Air France to operate six times a week to and through India, including three terminator services. If, however, Air France does not operate any terminator service, it will be entitled to an additional transiting service through India. While Air India can operate its terminator services to Paris from July 15, 1978, Air France will exercise this right from April 1, 1980. Under the agreement, Air India has been given full traffic rights between Paris and Montreal, and Paris and New York. It will also be entitled to operate between Paris and Toronto from April 1, 1980. Correspondingly, Air France has been given the right to serve one point in the Gulf or Saudi Arabia on its terminator service to India. Both Air India and Air France have been permitted to operate a weekly all freighter service. However, Air France will not exercise the traffic rights between a point in the Gulf and India on this service. The agreement was reached earlier this month in Paris after 4-day talks between the civil aviation delegations of India and France. The Indian delegation was led by B. S. Gidwani, director general of the civil aviation. [Text] [Delhi ISI in English 1431 GMT 19 May 78 BK]

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